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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

Jason Lee Cepeda,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Superior Court, et al.,

Defendants.

No. CV 07-2551-PHX-MHM (MEA)

**ORDER**

On December 20, 2007, Plaintiff Jason Lee Cepeda, who is confined in the Maricopa County Fourth Avenue Jail, filed a *pro se* civil rights Complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 (Doc. #1) and an Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*. In a January 9, 2008 Order, the Court denied the Application to Proceed because it was incomplete. The Court gave Plaintiff 30 days to file a complete Application to Proceed.

On January 18, 2008, Plaintiff filed a second Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. #4). The Court will grant the second Application to Proceed and will dismiss the Complaint with leave to amend.

**I. Second Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* and Filing Fee**

Plaintiff's second Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* will be granted. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Plaintiff must pay the statutory filing fee of \$350.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). The Court will assess an initial partial filing fee of \$1.33. The remainder of the fee will be collected monthly in payments of 20% of the previous month's income each time the amount in the account exceeds \$10.00. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(2). The Court will

1 enter a separate Order requiring the appropriate government agency to collect and forward  
2 the fees according to the statutory formula.

## 3 **II. Statutory Screening of Prisoner Complaints**

4 The Court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against  
5 a governmental entity or an officer or an employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C.  
6 § 1915A(a). The Court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if a plaintiff has raised  
7 claims that are legally frivolous or malicious, that fail to state a claim upon which relief may  
8 be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.  
9 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2). If the Court determines that a pleading could be cured by the  
10 allegation of other facts, a *pro se* litigant is entitled to an opportunity to amend a complaint  
11 before dismissal of the action. See Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127-29 (9th Cir. 2000)  
12 (*en banc*).

13 The Court should not, however, advise the litigant how to cure the defects. This type  
14 of advice “would undermine district judges’ role as impartial decisionmakers.” Pliler v.  
15 Ford, 542 U.S. 225, 231 (2004); see also Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1131 n.13 (declining to decide  
16 whether the court was required to inform a litigant of deficiencies). Plaintiff’s Complaint  
17 will be dismissed for failure to state a claim, with leave to amend because the Complaint may  
18 possibly be saved by amendment.

## 19 **III. Complaint**

20 In his three-count Complaint, Plaintiff sues Defendants Superior Court, State of  
21 Arizona, Cactus Police Department, and Joseph M. Arpaio.

22 In Count One, Plaintiff claims he was wrongfully incarcerated, in violation of the  
23 Sixth Amendment. He alleges that he “provided evidence to the State of Arizona that he was  
24 not the person who commit[t]ed the crime that he was a suspect in, [but] the State refuse[d]  
25 to release him.” He asserts that he was found “not guilty” in two criminal cases. In Count  
26 Two, Plaintiff asserts that he was falsely imprisoned, in violation of the Sixth Amendment,  
27 because he was “incarcerated for crimes he did not commit.”  
28

1 In Count Three, Plaintiff alleges he was subjected to false arrest, perjury, and false  
 2 information by a police officer. He claims that he was arrested after being truthful and that  
 3 a police officer tried to lie at Plaintiff's trial.

4 In his Request for Relief, Plaintiff seeks compensatory and punitive damages.

#### 5 **IV. Improper Defendant**

6 The State of Arizona and Superior Court are not proper Defendants. Under the  
 7 Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, a state or state agency may not  
 8 be sued in federal court without its consent. Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp. v. Halderman, 465  
 9 U.S. 89, 100 (1984); Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989); Greater Los  
 10 Angeles Council on Deafness, Inc. v. Zolin, 812 F.2d 1103, 1110 (9th Cir. 1987).  
 11 Furthermore, neither a state nor an arm of the state is a 'person' for purposes of section 1983.  
 12 See Mumford v. Basinski, 105 F.3d 264, 267 (6th Cir. 1997); Gilbreath v. Cutter Biological,  
 13 Inc., 931 F.2d 1320, 1327 (9th Cir. 1991).

14 Therefore, the Court will dismiss Defendants State of Arizona and Superior Court.

#### 15 **V. Failure to Link Defendant with Injuries**

16 To state a valid claim under § 1983, plaintiffs must allege that they suffered a specific  
 17 injury as a result of specific conduct of a defendant and show an affirmative link between the  
 18 injury and the conduct of that defendant. See Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 371-72, 377  
 19 (1976).

20 Plaintiff has made no allegations against Defendants Cactus Police Department and  
 21 Arpaio. Moreover, there is no *respondeat superior* liability under § 1983, and therefore, a  
 22 defendant's position as the employer or supervisor of a person who allegedly violated  
 23 Plaintiff's constitutional rights does not impose liability. Monell v. New York City  
 24 Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658, 691-92 (1978).

25 Therefore, the Court will dismiss without prejudice Defendants Cactus Police  
 26 Department and Arpaio.

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**VI. Leave to Amend**

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's Complaint will be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. Within 30 days, Plaintiff may submit a first amended complaint to cure the deficiencies outlined above. The Clerk of Court will mail Plaintiff a court-approved form to use for filing a first amended complaint. If Plaintiff fails to use the court-approved form, the Court may strike the amended complaint and dismiss this action without further notice to Plaintiff.

Plaintiff must clearly designate on the face of the document that it is the "First Amended Complaint." The first amended complaint must be retyped or rewritten in its entirety on the court-approved form and may not incorporate any part of the original Complaint by reference. Plaintiff may include only one claim per count.

A first amended complaint supersedes the original complaint. Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1262 (9th Cir. 1992); Hal Roach Studios v. Richard Feiner & Co., 896 F.2d 1542, 1546 (9th Cir. 1990). After amendment, the Court will treat an original complaint as nonexistent. Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Any cause of action that was raised in the original complaint is waived if it is not raised in a first amended complaint. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987).

**VII. Warnings**

**A. Release**

Plaintiff must pay the unpaid balance of the filing fee within 120 days of his release. Also, within 30 days of his release, he must either (1) notify the Court that he intends to pay the balance or (2) show good cause, in writing, why he cannot. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this action.

**B. Address Changes**

Plaintiff must file and serve a notice of a change of address in accordance with Rule 83.3(d) of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure. Plaintiff must not include a motion for other relief with a notice of change of address. Failure to comply may result in dismissal of this action.

1           **C.     Copies**

2           Plaintiff must submit an additional copy of every filing for use by the Court. See  
3 LRCiv 5.4. Failure to comply may result in the filing being stricken without further notice  
4 to Plaintiff.

5           **D.     Possible “Strike”**

6           Because the Complaint has been dismissed for failure to state a claim, if Plaintiff fails  
7 to file an amended complaint correcting the deficiencies identified in this Order, the  
8 dismissal will count as a “strike” under the “3-strikes” provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).  
9 Under the 3-strikes provision, a prisoner may not bring a civil action or appeal a civil  
10 judgment *in forma pauperis* under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 “if the prisoner has, on 3 or more prior  
11 occasions, while incarcerated or detained in any facility, brought an action or appeal in a  
12 court of the United States that was dismissed on the grounds that it is frivolous, malicious,  
13 or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, unless the prisoner is under  
14 imminent danger of serious physical injury.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

15          **E.     Possible Dismissal**

16          If Plaintiff fails to timely comply with every provision of this Order, including these  
17 warnings, the Court may dismiss this action without further notice. See Ferdik, 963 F.2d at  
18 1260-61 (a district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the  
19 Court).

20          **IT IS ORDERED:**

21           (1)     Plaintiff’s second Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (Doc. #4) is  
22 **granted**.

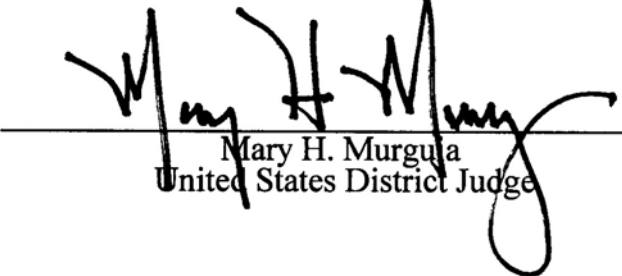
23           (2)     As required by the accompanying Order to the appropriate government agency,  
24 Plaintiff must pay the \$350.00 filing fee and is assessed an initial partial filing fee of \$1.33.

25           (3)     The Complaint (Doc. #1) is **dismissed** for failure to state a claim. Plaintiff has  
26 **30 days** from the date this Order is filed to file a first amended complaint in compliance with  
27 this Order.  
28

1 (4) If Plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint within 30 days, the Clerk of  
2 Court must, without further notice, enter a judgment of dismissal of this action with prejudice  
3 that states that the dismissal counts as a "strike" under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

4 (5) The Clerk of Court must mail Plaintiff a court-approved form for filing a civil  
5 rights complaint by a prisoner.

6 DATED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008.

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11 Mary H. Murgula  
12 United States District Judge  
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**Instructions for a Prisoner Filing a Civil Rights Complaint  
in the United States District Court for the District of Arizona**

1. Who May Use This Form. The civil rights complaint form is designed to help incarcerated persons prepare a complaint seeking relief for a violation of their federal civil rights. These complaints typically concern, but are not limited to, conditions of confinement. **This form should not be used to challenge your conviction or sentence.** If you want to challenge a state conviction or sentence, you should file a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in state custody. If you want to challenge a federal conviction or sentence, you should file a motion under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate sentence in the federal court that entered the judgment.
2. The Form. **Local Rule of Civil Procedure (LRCiv) 3.4(a) provides that complaints by incarcerated persons must be filed on the court-approved form.** The form must be typed or neatly handwritten. The form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. All questions must be answered clearly and concisely in the appropriate space on the form. If needed, you may attach additional pages, **but no more than fifteen additional pages**, of standard letter-sized paper. You must identify which part of the complaint is being continued and number all pages. If you do not fill out the form properly, you will be asked to submit additional or corrected information, which may delay the processing of your action. You do not need to cite law.
3. Your Signature. You must tell the truth and sign the form. If you make a false statement of a material fact, you may be prosecuted for perjury.
4. The Filing Fee. The filing fee for this action is \$350.00. If you are unable to immediately pay the filing fee, you may request leave to proceed *in forma pauperis*. Please review the “Information for Prisoners Seeking Leave to Proceed with a (Non-Habeas) Civil Action in Federal Court *In Forma Pauperis* Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915” for additional instructions.
5. Original and Judge’s Copy. You must send an **original plus one copy** of your complaint and of any other documents submitted to the Court. You must send one additional copy to the Court if you wish to have a file-stamped copy of the document returned to you. All copies must be identical to the original. Copies may be legibly handwritten.
6. Where to File. You should file your complaint in the division **where you were confined when your rights were allegedly violated.** See LRCiv 5.1(a) and 77.1(a). If you were confined in Maricopa, Pinal, Yuma, La Paz, or Gila County, file in the Phoenix Division. If you were confined in Apache, Navajo, Coconino, Mohave, or Yavapai County, file in the Prescott Division. If you were confined in Pima, Cochise, Santa Cruz, Graham, or Greenlee County, file in the Tucson Division. **Mail the original and one copy of the complaint with the \$350 filing fee or the application to proceed *in forma pauperis* to:**

Phoenix & Prescott Divisions:  
U.S. District Court Clerk  
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 130  
401 West Washington Street, SPC 10  
Phoenix, Arizona 85003-2119

**OR**

Tucson Division:  
U.S. District Court Clerk  
U.S. Courthouse, Suite 1500  
405 West Congress Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85701-5010

7. Change of Address. You must immediately notify the Court and the defendants in writing of any change in your mailing address. **Failure to notify the Court of any change in your mailing address may result in the dismissal of your case.**

8. Certificate of Service. You must furnish the defendants with a copy of any document you submit to the Court (except the initial complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*). Each original document (except the initial complaint and application to proceed *in forma pauperis*) must include a certificate of service on the last page of the document stating the date a copy of the document was mailed to the defendants and the address to which it was mailed. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 5(a), (d). Any document received by the Court that does not include a certificate of service may be stricken. A certificate of service should be in the following form:

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing document was mailed  
this \_\_\_\_\_ (month, day, year) to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney for Defendant(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

9. Amended Complaint. If you need to change any of the information in the initial complaint, you must file an amended complaint. The amended complaint must be written on the court-approved civil rights complaint form. You may file one amended complaint without leave (permission) of Court before any defendant has answered your original complaint. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). After any defendant has filed an answer, you must file a motion for leave to amend and lodge (submit) a proposed amended complaint. LRCiv 15.1. In addition, an amended complaint may not incorporate by reference any part of your prior complaint. LRCiv 15.1(a)(2). **Any allegations or defendants not included in the amended complaint are considered dismissed.** All amended complaints are subject to screening under the Prison Litigation Reform Act; screening your amendment will take additional processing time.

10. Exhibits. You should not submit exhibits with the complaint or amended complaint. Instead, the relevant information should be paraphrased. You should keep the exhibits to use to support or oppose a motion to dismiss, a motion for summary judgment, or at trial.

11. Letters and Motions. It is generally inappropriate to write a letter to any judge or the staff of any judge. The only appropriate way to communicate with the Court is by filing a written pleading or motion.

12. Completing the Civil Rights Complaint Form.

**HEADING:**

1. Your Name. Print your name, prison or inmate number, and institutional mailing address on the lines provided.
2. Defendants. If there are **four or fewer** defendants, print the name of each. If you name **more than four** defendants, print the name of the first defendant on the first line, write the words “and others” on the second line, and attach an additional page listing the names of **all** of the defendants. Insert the additional page after page 1 and number it “1-A” at the bottom.
3. Jury Demand. If you want a jury trial, you must write “JURY TRIAL DEMANDED” in the space below “CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT BY A PRISONER.” Failure to do so may result in the loss of the right to a jury trial. A jury trial is not available if you are seeking only injunctive relief.

**Part A. JURISDICTION:**

1. Nature of Suit. Mark whether you are filing the complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for state, county, or city defendants; “Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents” for federal defendants; or “other.” If you mark “other,” identify the source of that authority.
2. Location. Identify the institution and city where the alleged violation of your rights occurred.
3. Defendants. Print all of the requested information about each of the defendants in the spaces provided. If you are naming more than four defendants, you must provide the necessary information about each additional defendant on separate pages labeled “2-A,” “2-B,” etc., at the bottom. Insert the additional page(s) immediately behind page 2.

**Part B. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS:**

You must identify any other lawsuit you have filed in either state or federal court while you were a prisoner. Print all of the requested information about each lawsuit in the spaces provided. If you have filed more than three lawsuits, you must provide the necessary information about each additional lawsuit on a separate page. Label the page(s) as “2-A,” “2-B,” etc., at the bottom of the page and insert the additional page(s) immediately behind page 2.

**Part C. CAUSE OF ACTION:**

You must identify what rights each defendant violated. The form provides space to allege three separate counts (**one violation per count**). If you are alleging more than three counts, you must provide the necessary information about each additional count on a separate page. Number the additional pages “5-A,” “5-B,” etc., and insert them immediately behind page 5. Remember that you are limited to a total of fifteen additional pages.

1. **Counts.** You must identify which civil right was violated. **You may allege the violation of only one civil right per count.**
2. **Issue Involved.** Check the box that most closely identifies the issue involved in your claim. **You may check only one box per count.** If you check the box marked “Other,” you must identify the specific issue involved.
3. **Supporting Facts.** After you have identified which civil right was violated, you must state the supporting facts. Be as specific as possible. You must state what each individual defendant did to violate your rights. If there is more than one defendant, you must identify which defendant did what act. You also should state the date(s) on which the act(s) occurred, if possible.
4. **Injury.** State precisely how you were injured by the alleged violation of your rights.
5. **Administrative Remedies.** You must exhaust any available administrative remedies before you file a civil rights complaint. See 42 U.S.C. § 1997e. Consequently, you should disclose whether you have exhausted the inmate grievance procedures or administrative appeals for each count in your complaint. If the grievance procedures were not available for any of your counts, fully explain why on the lines provided.

**Part D. REQUEST FOR RELIEF:**

Print the relief you are seeking in the space provided.

**SIGNATURE:**

You must sign your name and print the date you signed the complaint. Failure to sign the complaint will delay the processing of your action. Unless you are an attorney, you may not bring an action on behalf of anyone but yourself.

**FINAL NOTE**

You should follow these instructions carefully. Failure to do so may result in your complaint being stricken or dismissed. All questions must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. If you need more space, you may attach no more than fifteen additional pages. But the form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. If you attach additional pages, be sure to identify which section of the complaint is being continued and number the pages.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Prisoner/Booking Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Place of Confinement

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip Code

**(Failure to notify the Court of your change of address may result in dismissal of this action.)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

\_\_\_\_\_, )  
(Full Name of Plaintiff) Plaintiff, )

vs. )

**CASE NO.** \_\_\_\_\_  
(To be supplied by the Clerk)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_, )  
(Full Name of Defendant)

(2) \_\_\_\_\_, )

(3) \_\_\_\_\_, )

(4) \_\_\_\_\_, )

Defendant(s). )

☐ Check if there are additional Defendants and attach page 1-A listing them. )

**CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT  
BY A PRISONER**

☐ Original Complaint

☐ First Amended Complaint

☐ Second Amended Complaint

**A. JURISDICTION**

1. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to:

☐ 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a); 42 U.S.C. § 1983

☐ 28 U.S.C. § 1331; Bivens v. Six Unknown Federal Narcotics Agents, 403 U.S. 388 (1971).

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Institution/city where violation occurred: \_\_\_\_\_

## B. DEFENDANTS

1. Name of first Defendant: \_\_\_\_\_. The first Defendant is employed as:  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Position and Title) (Institution)
2. Name of second Defendant: \_\_\_\_\_. The second Defendant is employed as:  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Position and Title) (Institution)
3. Name of third Defendant: \_\_\_\_\_. The third Defendant is employed as:  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Position and Title) (Institution)
4. Name of fourth Defendant: \_\_\_\_\_. The fourth Defendant is employed as:  
\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Position and Title) (Institution)

If you name more than four Defendants, answer the questions listed above for each additional Defendant on a separate page.

## C. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS

1. Have you filed any other lawsuits while you were a prisoner? ☐ Yes ☐ No
2. If yes, how many lawsuits have you filed? \_\_\_\_\_. Describe the previous lawsuits:
  - a. First prior lawsuit:
    1. Parties: \_\_\_\_\_ v. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. Court and case number: \_\_\_\_\_
    3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Second prior lawsuit:
    1. Parties: \_\_\_\_\_ v. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. Court and case number: \_\_\_\_\_
    3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Third prior lawsuit:
    1. Parties: \_\_\_\_\_ v. \_\_\_\_\_
    2. Court and case number: \_\_\_\_\_
    3. Result: (Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending?) \_\_\_\_\_

If you filed more than three lawsuits, answer the questions listed above for each additional lawsuit on a separate page.





### COUNT III

1. State the constitutional or other federal civil right that was violated: \_\_\_\_\_.
2. **Count III.** Identify the issue involved. Check **only one**. State additional issues in separate counts.  
☐ Basic necessities                  ☐ Mail                  ☐ Access to the court                  ☐ Medical care  
☐ Disciplinary proceedings        ☐ Property              ☐ Exercise of religion              ☐ Retaliation  
☐ Excessive force by an officer     ☐ Threat to safety     ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Supporting Facts.** State as briefly as possible the FACTS supporting Count III. Describe exactly what each Defendant did or did not do that violated your rights. State the facts clearly in your own words without citing legal authority or arguments.  
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\_\_\_\_\_.
4. **Injury.** State how you were injured by the actions or inactions of the Defendant(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. **Administrative Remedies.**
- a. Are there any administrative remedies (grievance procedures or administrative appeals) available at your institution? ☐ Yes    ☐ No
  - b. Did you submit a request for administrative relief on Count III? ☐ Yes    ☐ No
  - c. Did you appeal your request for relief on Count III to the highest level? ☐ Yes    ☐ No
  - d. If you did not submit or appeal a request for administrative relief at any level, briefly explain why you did not. \_\_\_\_\_

**If you assert more than three Counts, answer the questions listed above for each additional Count on a separate page.**

**E. REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

State the relief you are seeking:

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I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PLAINTIFF

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Name and title of paralegal, legal assistant, or  
other person who helped prepare this complaint)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of attorney, if any)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Attorney's address & telephone number)

**ADDITIONAL PAGES**

All questions must be answered concisely in the proper space on the form. If you need more space, you may attach no more than fifteen additional pages. But the form must be completely filled in to the extent applicable. If you attach additional pages, be sure to identify which section of the complaint is being continued and number all pages.